Ms.
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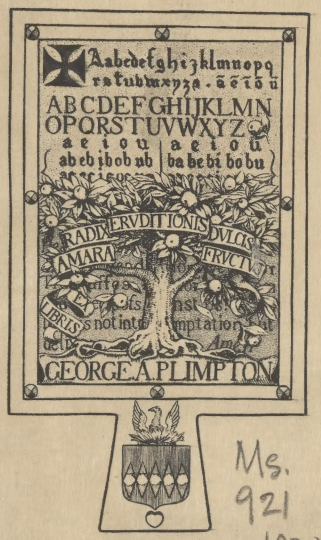
51 ——— 89



Ms.
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1820
vol. 2

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51 from p48 in want of beer, & afraid of losing Time. — The Captain, however, although he would have laid five to one that the ship was too far out to the eastward, yet would not alter his course, as Mr. Harrison declared that if the island of Porto Santo was accurately laid down in the maps charts they must see it the next morning. If the wind & weather continued the same. His prediction proved true, for at 7 o'clock in the morning they saw the Island. — Such a confirmation in favour of the ability of the Timekeeper made the Captain & crew very thankful to Mr Harrison; for had they steered westward as they wanted, they must have missed the Island, which would have been very inconvenient to them. On this occasion Captain Digges engaged Mr. Harrison to promise him the first Watch that should be made for sale.

The letter of the junior Harrison to his Father covered another from this Officer, which we copy, dated —

Madeira 18. December 1761

for the letter see Account of proceedings p84

"A curious circumstance, highly important for illustrating the subject, must now be mentioned. — His Majesty's sloop, the Beaver, had sailed from Portsmouth ten days before the Deptford, taking out orders to the merchants at Madeira for several articles that would be wanted by Governor Lyttleton; but it happened awkwardly enough, that the Deptford arrived there three days before

to p55

…e pieces before the Commissioners
…e of each part separately shown,
…d in making it produced. All
…ed to be duly conformed to; the
…receiving a certificate that
…aid £5,000: such sum being after-
…ded in the reward, if he became
…r the interim his Son would be
…d to sea, as soon as the Trials
…concluded: ~~finished. These points~~
…kept in view; for — After the
…the Commissioners under this Act,
…t which eight attended, out of the
…the resolutions ~~transmitted~~ forward
…isioners, by their manager & secretary,
…riance with the intent & bearing
…s understood by him & his friends;
…borne out by any clause in the
…— If any particular tools were neces-
…sary, in the construction of the Timekeeper, different
…the making of common watches, it
…pieces be exhibited, & correct draw-
…tions ~~in writing~~, the price of such tools.

5 from p 48 in want of beer, & afraid
— The Captain, however, although he
laid five to one that the ship was too
eastward, yet would not alter his co-
-rse or declared that if the island of Porto
-rately laid down in the maps charts they
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for the letter see account

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-trating the subject, must now be men
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ten days before the Deptford, taking o
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Lord Viscount Parham
Rev. John Michell
~~James Earl of Morton~~
~~Lord Charles Cavendish~~
~~Lord Viscount Parham~~
~~Rev. John Michell~~
~~George Lewis Scott Esqr~~
Mr. James Short F.R.S.
Mr. Alexander Cumming Watch maker
~~Mr. Thomas Mudge~~ do
~~Mr. William Feddon~~ do
~~Mr. James Green~~ do
~~Mr. Andrew Dickie~~
Mr. Andrew Dickie

which I presupposed
it was not expected
they would
occupy above a week,
or two. — These points

Lord Charles Cavendish
James Earl of Morton
George Lewis Scott Esqr
~~Rev. John Michell~~
Mr. James Short F.R.S.
Mr. Alexander Cumming Watch maker
Mr. William Feddon do
Mr. James Green do
Mr. Thomas Mudge do
The two last attendants
were not above

by its being taken to pieces before the Commissioners, the form & use of each part separately shown, the tools also used in making it produced. All which being supposed to be duly performed to; the Candidate or [redacted] receiving a certificate to that effect, was to be paid £5,000: such sum being afterwards to be included in the reward, if he became entitled to that. In the interim his Son would be waiting to proceed to sea, as soon as the Operations should be concluded: ~~finished.~~ ~~Three points~~ are necessary to be kept in view; for — After the first meeting of the Commissioners under this Act, April 13. 1763, at which eight attended, out of the seven nominated, the resolutions ~~transmitted~~ forwarded to John Harrison, by their manager & secretary, were widely at variance with the intent & bearing of the enactment, as understood by him & his friends; & besides were not borne out by any clause in the bill. By the 1st — If any particular tools were necessary towards the construction of the Timekeeper, different from those used in the making of common watches, it was required "that specimens be exhibited, & correct drawings, with written descriptions ~~in writing~~, be given of such tools."

52

52

yet this incongruity

In so far it was of course; but it continued — "That
"workmen be forthwith employed to make a number
"of the same, sufficient for the making of two or
"more Watches upon the principles of Mr. Harrison's.
— The delay which this would have occasioned was
obvious; to say nothing of the expence; for which
no funds were provided Yet it was trifling when com-
-pared with the obstacles opposed by the 5th resolution,
which directed [illegible] (we suppose after
those tools were prepared) — "That a number of work-
-men be forthwith employed for the making of
"two, or more,
"such Watches, under the direction of Mr. John Har-
-rison; which the said commissioners shall have li-
"-berty to inspect from time to time; so that they
"may see the progress of the work, in the forming of
"the several parts of the Watch, & receive answers to
"such questions as they, or any of them, shall ask, rela
"-tive thereto. Which questions & answers shall, if requir
"-ed be taken down in writing, to be signed by Mr.
"Harrison, & the person, or persons, who shall ask such
"question, or questions." — To an explanation so elaborate,
which it seemed impossible to calculate the end of, was sub
-joined, by [illegible] resolution the 6th & last "That
"when such Watches are finished they shall be tried in
"such manner as the commissioners shall judge proper,
"so as to convince them that the Discovery made by

53

— It afterwards appeared that W. Kendal would not contract to make a copy of the Timekeeper under £450; & that he required two years to complete it in, ~~No~~ although he stated he had set aside his private business. The inventor himself could not engage to construct one, of the same description, ~~under £400~~ for less than £400. So that the cost of two Timekeepers would have been £800. To which if another hundred be added, for the making of new tools, & sundry contingencies, ~~that~~ in this fantastical mode of estimating the Act, £900 would have been required for the purpose, & yet no expence was contemplated when the bill passed. ~~It was impossible for any~~ No person therefore with a common knowledge of business, ~~I~~ could concur in so

"Mr. Harrison is sufficient to enable other workmen
"to make Watches of equal goodness."— Nothing could
be conceived more foreign to the ideas of the Candidate,
when he suffered himself to be overruled, rather than per-
-suaded, into the scheme; for he deprecated delay; &
by the lowest computation this method of explaining
his Invention would occupy ~~two~~ three or four years — long
before which period, if he should be favoured by Pro-
-vidence, he hoped to see his Son return from a suc-
-cessful voyage, which would entitle him to a reward
four times greater than he was promised by this Act.
~~Besides the resolutions did not say from whom the~~
Besides, no expence having been contemplated when the bill
~~money was to come for the wages of these workmen~~
passed, there was no provision to meet such a contingen-
~~& that this so necessary it could not be supported~~
-cy; without which, no person, with a knowledge of common business,
~~a person acquainted with common business~~
could conceive the wild application of the measure. John
~~could ever look at it. He therefore, by recovery from~~
Harrison therefore, on receiving a copy of his Lordship's resolutions
~~soon after Christmas~~, took the first opportunity to wait
~~the Earl of~~ on the Nobleman to inform him
on Lord Morton & against this Resolution that it was
"not in his power to put ~~them~~ those resolutions in prac
"-tice, & that he apprehended they were such as the
"Act did not require. — His Lordship told him, he
"insisted on it, — that twenty men should be directly set
"on making tools; & that, as soon as could be, twenty
"men should be employed to make more Timekeepers.

forced a construction of the measure. Yet the uncouth character, with whom the resolutions exclusively originated, was of "solid proof, so impenetrably dull," he either could not, or would not, understand the insuperable obstacle he was creating thereby to any further steps by the commission, to which in an adverse hour he had been nominated. — Not only so, there is too much reason to believe he conclude that, in the spirit of his the Caledonian motto he never forgot, or forgave, his having been foiled in attempting to force his these resolutions on the kingdom, manifestly impracticable as they were. John Harrison, on receiving a copy of them,

my Lord Morton, to resort to

if he had no sinister motive, should have been

To which John Harrison gave answer ~~...~~ That it would
" cost at least ~~...~~ £40 or £50 per week, & that he had
" not a capital to support any such thing. To this
" ~~...~~ ~~his Lordship~~ Lord Morton replied. ~~...~~ If you cannot do it your-
" self, you must get your friend, Mr. Short, or some
" other friends, to assist you." — The meanness of this
counsel seems to have on a par with the folly of it. ~~...~~
For such being his Lordships construction of his ~~...~~ ours
resolutions ~~(& they could be no other, though somewhat more~~
~~& they could be no other, though somewhat more~~
~~of the Commission)~~ the least that might have
been expected, was that he would have advanced a few hun-
-dred pounds out of his own pocket, if he was not as scrup-
-ulous of coin as the man of genius on whom he was thus
verifying "the proud man's contumely, & the oppres-
-sor's scorn." It was not the practice of John Harrison,
however it might be that of ~~his Lordship~~ Lord Morton, to resort to
his friends as often as he wanted money for a precar-
-ious speculation, like that attempted to be forced
on him in this manner. It is surprising, ~~...~~ That this nobleman,
who seems to have been more indebted to the strength of
his rank & fortune than to that of his understanding,
for his influence with his associates, ~~...~~ should have been
so defficient as not to see the precipice to which he
was leading the adventurer. For if the latter, pursuant

55

without consulting Moore Cox Fellarum
[illegible] Cartridge 1 or 1 1/2
[illegible] night have been forecast,

to his aideu, had raised all the money he could among his friends, & the Timekeeper had afterwards failed in accuracy, or been lost, or much injured by some accident, who does not see he might have become irretrievably involved, & his grey hairs shortly "brought "with sorrow to the grave."

The audience he had sought of the representative of this Commission, proving no more satisfactory than as described, the Candidate drew up some answers to the points in agitation: of which it may suffice to give here the concluding one, as follows "My "Son will agree with me, that after he shall have made "another voyage, which will be as soon as the season of the "year will permit, that, upon his return, the Clock and "Watch makers appointed by this Act, shall, if they please, "see every part of the execution of another Timekeeper; "but we will not spend the time in making another Watch "before he has made such another voyage as the 12. of "Queen Anne directs"

This resolve was certainly no more than what most other persons would have [redacted] under a parity of circumstances; & [redacted] that if the noble Lords motion had not been seconded by his zeale & suspicions, it would have elicited nothing better than

56

overbearing & positive assumptions
for his, Duncannon or subjects he knew nothing of

~~manufactures~~

Manager & Secretary, in common with the other Commissi-
-oners

himself

~~important business~~

produced to

They were merely explanatory of those transmitted to the Cardinal after
the first meeting; & the

Note — Supposing the correctness of his Lordship's assump-
-tions, what a mean idea it gives of his capacity, if he could
not see it was equally impossible to proceed according to his
own plan, unless the money necessary for such a formidable outlay
if that difficulty was overcome, yet as such advances could
not be expected to be included in the reward, like the £5,000
the Candidate was promised by this act, the question remains unanswered
Who was to pay the piper? — This ridiculous dilemma,

advice from some & contempt from others; [redacted]

[redacted]

The above answers were by etiquette transmitted to the Board of Longitude, who seems to have persuaded that no man, having common sense, could possibly differ in opinion with him, or any public board. And reasoning rightly from wrong premises, according to Locke's definition of a madman, he is found preparing another set of resolutions, which, as a matter of form, rather than of necessity, he exhibited to a second meeting of the Commissioners, previously appointed by him, to be held on the 23.rd

steps of them may be summed up in the concluding passage: "— it is impossible to know beforehand, "whether the explanation to be given by Mr. Harrison, "will be so full & clear, as to put it in their power to fin- "-ish the principles of his Watch, or Timekeeper, in "such a manner as will enable other workmen to make "other such watches, for the same purpose."

Granting this difficulty to the fullest extent, — was it not the direct inference — that the present act of Parliament became wholly nugatory & impracticable to be proceeded with, according to his Lordships' con

57 would have become a Professor of Laputa, or of Utopia, better than the President of the Royal Society — which he became shortly after!

(Unless the Gentlemen of the Commission could have mustered resolution enough to cashier ~~the~~ this accomplished ~~foreign~~ philosopher, & universal man of business, ~~whom they suffered to insult his lobby, & crack his whip in their faces.~~) was rendering the expence & time bestowed on this ~~enquiry~~ enactment entirely useless for its professed purpose.)

-struction of it. ~~for then was no provision to meet an~~
~~offence which, by his explanation, might extend to~~
~~40 or £50 per week. had although he had~~ he where
alluded to the making of more tools, & more Time Keepers,
yet he maintained contended there was no other way
of knowing whether the disclosure it contemplated
would be sufficiently satisfactory, ~~in~~ In this situation
of things, the last course would have been to
drop the measure by consent of all parties. ~~But~~
~~the only consequence of the manner was pleaded~~
~~by the Dictator, which he had opposed by~~
~~reasons, it was to have been his custom, where there~~
~~was no point to contend for, to close with~~
~~the~~ "

"John Harrison, on reading the secondary's
" of resolutions, next to most of the Gentlemen Commis
" -sioners who had attended; & he soon found," he says,
" that though the names were all inserted, that were pre-
" -sent at the meeting, yet it was contrary to some of
" their opinions, that any such resolutions were come to.
" and that they had never been asked their sentiments
" about them. They added, that Lord Morton had done
" as he did at the meeting before; bringing the resolut-
" -ons ready drawn up, & only put their names to them."

"At the above meetings, as he was informed, the
" Earl of Morton took upon himself the trouble of reading

58

proceed to the West

-or at the meeting as was stated ~~as was alleged~~

"ing the whole business; & thereupon Mr. Short, on the
"latter occasion, asked his Lordship if all the Gentle-
"men had been summoned, for if they had not, ~~it~~
"it could not be called a meeting; & that the time
"had been so short, he did not think it was possible
"they could all ~~have~~ know of it. [John Harrison's
"representations were dated on the 26th and the meeting
"to take them into consideration was appointed for the
"23d] To which Lord Morton replied — that they had
"all been summoned."

~~"After this,~~ By Candidate
"~~John Harrison~~ after this, John Harrison began
"directly to set about getting order, for his Son to ~~go~~
"India. And — William Harrison having some family bu-
"siness to settle in Lincolnshire, he, in the latter end of May,
"took a journey there; & in his way, called at Cambridge. Where
"he saw the rev. ~~Mr.~~ John Michell, of Queens College, and asked him
"if he had heard what had been done in consequence of
"this last act of Parliament. Mr. Michell told him he
"had got a copy of the six articles which were agreed upon
"~~at the meeting~~; & had also a copy of Mr. John Harrison's
"answers to them; and that he had these copies
"from Lord Morton. — William Harrison then asked him
"if he had not got a copy of the resolutions of the
"second meeting. He said he had not, nor did he then
"know that there had been such a meeting. He seemed
"much surprised, that there had, & enquired himself as to the
"following purport. "When I was in town, I told his Lordship,
"if he would please to send me notice when there would
"be another meeting, I would, if possible, attend at it.
"But I never received such summons, nor knew any thing

" " of this meeting. Therefore it was not possible I could
" attend. And I do assure you, had I known of it, I certain
" -ly should have ~~attended~~ been there: as my business
" at that time would have allowed me." M. Michele
" also added, that nothing would have given him greater
" pleasure than to have come to serve M. Harrison, &
" the public in this affair; & why Lord Morton had not
" let him know he could not conceive." &c.

Yet it is not so difficult as this gentleman, for want of opportunity, thought it, to account & explain what had happened. The manager neither wanted him, nor any other person likely to give him too much trouble; & rather than disturb himself on this point, had no scruple to attack & render informal the whole proceeding, by leaving him ignorant of the appointed meeting. Though he exposed himself to the direct, by denying the omission of it. — Respecting the absence of Lord Willoughby of Parham, another of the commissioners, the Author can find no trace. Possibly it was accidental, at the first meeting: or he might have been unwilling to be brought into contact with the manager, for reasons we will pass by. If he was in the country, previous to the second appointment, the shortness of the notice was likely to prevent his appearance. ~~And as~~ While as ~~some~~ motive can

60

was altogether

yours truly

be assigned ~~Wednesday~~ for the presentation with which the second meeting was first but the noble Lord impatient to figure away as manager, & writer & reporter of the joint owners. He had not occasion for rank or wealth both which he derived from ancestors of some celebrity but he wanted to be superior to people of business as well as men of science.

It next appears from John Harrison's journal, that to show his readiness in conforming, if possible, to this unpropitious act of Parliament, by the advice of his friends, he addressed a circular to the Commissioners, undertaking "to explain the principles on which the Timekeeper was constructed in such a manner as the Act requires and at the time & place appoint which hope will be as soon as suits your convenience, as my Son's presence may be a great help to me on that occasion."

There was nothing irregular in this, but the policy of it ~~is another~~ may be questioned, for as long as the Commissioners, of most consideration at the meeting, tolerated the manager in asserting a majority in favour of his resolutions, or any other vacancy he ~~manifested~~ adopt, the candidate might

Names [whom the King did not delight, cd not to honour]

probably

are given in the Journal

our mechanician might be taxed with being as untow-ard as Mordecai the Jew, in not homaging this scientific [illegible]. To appeal to the other Gentlemen, in this man-ner, might be construed to call in question the accu-racy of his statements; which was not likely to be soon forgotten by a character so cautious of, & enjoy-ing the consequence he assumed, as Lord Morton. This nobleman, who had you styled him all accomplished would have inhaled the incense as his due, He was however a good deal different from Bolingbroke, on whom Lord Chesterfield was wont to bestow the epithet; adding that "every thing he said would bear "being committed to the press" we apprehend for, nobody ever thought the common sayings of [illegible] the Earl of Morton would appear to advantage in such a garb, & some-time, his wisest discourse often would not.

Six answers, to the offer in the circular, as yet. One is from the rev.d John Michell, at Cam-bridge, who, without adverting to the right honour-able Manager, professes his readiness to attend any meeting which shall be agreed upon by the rest of the Commissioners; if he can only make it consistent with his other unavoidable engagements. — M. Andrews

62

Note

□ That of M Short, as the most interesting ~~[illegible]~~ we insert.

these letters □

who, by the way, were all of them the personal friends of the candidate, could not with any

~~[illegible]~~

○ Note. It is important to observe, that the number & the names, on the second meeting, were the same as at the first.

Dickie of Clerkenwell, one of the watchmakers nominated on the commission, had declined to attend altogether, & says he stated his reasons in a letter to Lord Morton, who had not however communicated them to the Candidate, who has Mr. Dickie's best wishes for his success. — The other four are from Messrs. James Short, F.R.S. Alexander Cumming, William Frodsham, & James Green, Watchmakers. who all declare the promptness with which they will attend an examination, in such terms as the act requires; but there is nothing in any of [redacted] repugnant to the Magyers forced construction of it. Thus evincing that the writers, ~~could not with any~~ consistency have voted for the resolution, so called. either of the first, or of the second meeting. And as the other three Commissioners, supposing them to have divided with Lord Morton, of which there is no evidence, could not have been a majority among eight without a casting vote, his Lordship must have had no common assurance when he forwarded to Red Lion Square his own resolves, for such only they were, as if they had passed nemine contradicente.

If it be remarked, that a character who assumed

might hereby have been managed by those who understood ~~his stiff & knotted~~ his ~~steady~~ work side,

~~maybe~~
~~If our mechanicians, it would have seemed like yet~~
~~to a Yankee, he looked only straight forward,~~
~~in~~

—— how time-
to be tolerated ~~in~~ in a

to controul every person & thing in this strange manner, must have been very flattering, as such vain men commonly are; that was he pretended to no classical reason, & complained from the insults of the Tinkers, would have taken his effectually, out of his hands. However probable the suggestion, however probable, may not likely to be acted on by a man of such recluse habits as John Harrison Thereupon it might have been shown him, that the impracticable resolutions would have been forthwith superseded by a set of counter decrees, equally authentic, but indisputably more for his advantage, since the rugged road, in which he lost himself, would have become as level as a bowling green before him.

Enough has been said, to occasion it be enquired, how, & how far the Earl of Morton exercised the superintendence which he exercised with a latitude that left none who were joined with him, in this Commission the power privilege of dissenting from any thing he said, or did? Like Lady Bab Lawless, in M.r Moore's Coelebs, he stunned every one to think & reason exactly as he would have it; giving them neither time nor opportunity to convince him of his mistake. And instead of

64

64

This Nobleman, who was totally unknown to fame, might have slept undisturbed till the consummation of all things, had not an unexpected discovery of the conspicuous part he bore in the destinies of John Harrison occasioned his being ushered to the light again, in explanation of those transactions which finally led to the accession of George 3d. —— The gentlemen of the Royal Society, no doubt might have had their reasons for voting him their President, shortly after this commission: & so had Peter the great, when he conferred the Patriarchal dignity on his fool.

collecting the sentiments of the other commissioners, who were all equal as such, whatever might be their difference in rank, he had the effrontery to bring those resolutions, ready drawn up, ~~proposed~~ which were contrary to the opinions of four in seven, at least, of those who attended. ~~— So it may be pretty that the leader should himself [illegible] incongruities, & remove~~ ~~[illegible] by their consequences if he can, the better writer will observe in passant that when~~ ~~half a dozen or more individuals are placed to~~ ~~the [illegible] for one special purpose but from which they are~~ ~~not [illegible] by their services, avocations, or pursuits~~ ~~[illegible] except on occasions with that kind of power~~ ~~which [illegible]~~

~~The principles of the Treaty~~

~~[illegible] display, or which may be seen in a commission~~ ~~[illegible] but as in this~~ ~~case, upon this occasion proposed by affecting to~~ ~~appear below that already would dispute his claim~~ ~~both in rank, an overmeasure of self importance~~ ~~enabled him to [illegible] himself better than he could~~ ~~his colleagues. — Thus petty ambition impels a man~~ ~~of title & [illegible] appendages to grasp the shade~~

65 Note at Page 44 □ The rupture, which was near operating as a veto on any further proceedings, is thus related in the Journal. — "Mr. Granville, upon read-
"-ing the above Petition, thought that it very much disagreed
"with the proposals that he had from John Har-
"-rison. For he insisted upon it, that Mr. Harrison had made
"proposals to him for the disclosure of his Invention first. But,
"as said before, this was owing to the solicitude of some of
"the Candidates friends, & not occasioned by himself. After
"a long debate on this subject, Mr. Granville addressed Wil-
"-liam Harrison in the following words. — "Your friends have
"" told me, nay, you told me yourself, the day before yester-
"" -day, that you did not chuse to risk your health & life in
"" another voyage to the West Indies; Therefore did desire that
"" we, the Commissioners of Longitude, should apply to Par-
"" -liament for the sum of £4,000, & you would divulge
"" the secret; & that to Page 68

Morton, in common with the other Commissioners,
final meeting (as it proved)

the Candidate

~~the Scotch like Kay Spedillo that indolence which is of~~
~~to the Constitution of mankind disposes some who should~~
~~be efficient, is the common excuse to acquiesce in~~
~~any point, provided for them ready cut & dry, than to~~
~~use that exertion, which they have not read, or heard~~
~~in perfection, but were assured by Imposters, or Mun-~~
~~dungus, that their import was such. Besides, the rest~~
~~of the Nation in cases of consideration has a tendency to~~
~~draw after it the Vote of B, C & D. And woe~~
~~unto the efficient that offends the Manipulation~~
~~Authority of the manager, to wit. He will pay for his~~
~~expence by finding that the whole affair is be-~~
~~come a thing not what Parliament intended~~
~~it should be!~~

The letter or circular above mentioned ~~dated~~ having been of course addressed to the Earl of ~~Morton~~ his Lordship appointed a Third & [illegible] at the Admiralty on the 7th of July: at which [illegible] Harrison was desired to attend: & whether he repaired accompanied by his Son. The first Lord of the Admiralty, Lord Sandwich, was present. He did not sit as a Commissioner, not being one under this Act, but De-

By this, & other overt acts, he certainly intended
if not likely to supplant him in the opinion of the
mathematicians, wanted

-sired to inform himself of the state of proceedings.—
After a long argument, the particulars of which
are not preserved, probably because they were not
to □ &477
new, except the opinion of the Manager—That
if Mr. Harrison did not comply with this Notice
according to his Lordships construction of it, "he
"could not have another trial," Lord Sandwich
interfering, answered,—"That there was no sort of connec-
-tion between the explanation, & a new trial of the Time-
-keeper. And he plainly saw from what had hap-
-ned, that it was not in Mr. Harrison's power to
"comply with their demands; therefore he should
"have another trial when he pleased, & as soon as
"he pleased: Upon which the meeting dissolved, and
"Lord Morton said. "If this is the case, I am sure
"Harrison will get all the money"
It was not the only time this explanation escaped the
Had he any wish to prevent him then? asks
John Doe, or Richard Roe. And was there more than
met the ear?— The reply is, that a [illegible]
John Harrison to regard him as a rival who,
neither the inclination nor the power to do him injury with
a commission like the above, & at the board of Longitude
where he took his seat not long after. And where his

67

yet

○ Note — If it be allowable to follow up the allegory, & to suppose the God of Blacksmiths to have slept his Lord Rep's scene yet the aspect would be entirely disparaged. Wisdom, forth-ed at all points, not being looked to issue forth, but a ~~[illegible]~~ shut, vulnerable on more than one. — This Barrage of a Commission, so oddly subverted, seems to page 76

customary

vote was open to the same, if not a greater objection than those of the University Gentlemen. If his competition should be thought more laughable than serious by those who attend to the following scene, it ~~is evident~~ ~~but it~~ made no difference to the candidate, if the no-ble Lord thought fair otherwise of his discoveries sincerely. — At a board of Longitude (in anticipate) held May 30th 1765 after the business of the meeting was closed Dr. Long asked John Harrison a few questions concerning "the principles of his Timekeeper, & of the differences "between it & a common watch; which questions were "all answered by him. Lord Morton then said — "Gentle-men, one of the grand principles in Mr. Harrison's "Timepiece I have known for some years, but I never "told it to man, woman, or child; & when you come "to know it, I do assure you, you will be much sur-"prised. And I do say, That if you were to set all the "mechanics in London to do it, they would all go quite "the wrong way; and that you will find it is a most excel-"lent discovery."

Whether his Lordship miscarried of this ~~secretum meum mihi~~ for want of a proper midwife, or that the amusement would only have been affected somewhat in Vulcan's manner, of Musical notoriety, by breaking a distaff, or a ladle, over his craniological system, were better referred to a jury of matrons to decide, ~~[illegible]~~ leaving the ladies sported

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"you chose to do this, rather than run the risk. I have just men-
"-tioned. — To this William Harrison replied — Sir, I never
"said any such thing, nor ever thought of such a pur-
"-pose." — W. Greville then said; "nay, if that is the
"case, you are nothing but an equivocator; & therefore
"I will have nothing more to say to you." — He then walked
"out of the room, & left William Harrison by himself;
"who was here again at a stand: not knowing what was
"to be done.

To judge from the particulars remaining, the junior Harrison never could have said "the day before yesterday" or on any other day, that he would not run the risk &c. For notwithstanding the hardships he had suffered in the Merlin, which were so near costing him his life, yet being a man of spirit, & it being obvious there was no other way of bringing the business to a conclusive issue, if the Commissioners could not be induced to reverse their vote, founded (or supposed to be so) on the secret com-
-putations, he uniformly declared his readiness to proceed to sea again. He denies here, in simple terms, that he had refused to embark, & the quarrel probably arose from W. Greville confounding, by an erration in his memory, what he might have heard from some unauthorized & indiscreet friend of the Candidate with what William himself [illegible] explicitly declared on [illegible] occasions after both had been long lost in Lethe was subsequently

over it, & their ordeals. It happens luckily that Mr
Sir Joseph Whittal of Philosopher could not keep his
own counsel, & by that lack of discretion justifies
it being demanded what could be his motive for
abdicating & leading an opinion at third meeting
for which, as Lord Sandwich justly observed there
was not the slightest foundation, viz. that unless the
Com, of the Act was complied with the Candidate
would not be entitled to another Bill which
execution of it the Bill rendered impracticable for
want of money, could conjointly have compelled John
Norris to desist from any further attempt to obtain
the award. And as people seldom deviate from what
may be called the common sense of a question without
a sufficient reason for so doing, if his Lordship was not
disjoint in an attribute especially necessary in public
& private life what could be the motive we repeat
for his eccentric conduct — unless it was to gain time
for the development of his own invention which (now
became tangible, but) was to surprise the learning ones!

That Mr. Norris

great Commission promoted to the chair in which
Newton had not scrupled to employ

by Harrison had said himself. However that was, the first Lord of the Admiralty never would have used the offensive expression stated, had he not regarded the person he was interlocuting with as too much his inferior to make it necessary to trouble himself about the canons of good breeding, which he was not wont to forget among his equals. Like many other men of to next page

It may suffice that the pertinacity with which he maintained

away on it. — Yet absurd as was the conduct of this Nobleman there is too much reason to believe that in the spirit of his country's motto, he never forgot, or forgave, his having been foiled in attempting to force them on the Candidate, unwarrantable as they were: — an enmity which became the source of that embittered disappointment the adventurer experienced after the success of the Timekeeper, & gave an arbitrary direction to his labours, which rendered them much less beneficial to the public.

~~is his scientific professions, could be diverted of the~~
~~adventitious circumstances by which he was surrou-~~
~~-nded but would not be cautious in his favour whe-~~
~~-ther as philosophers by experiment, or as men of~~
~~fashionable philosophers. and history informs us~~
~~that Peter the great for political reasons, conferred~~
~~the Patriarchal dignity on his fool. This fortu-~~
~~-ity is~~ a self evident contradiction & the undivious con-
-trast he was suffered to exercise display over others, much his
superiors, exalt in rank & its concomitants &c. appear to
have been the sole causes of this public measure proving
entirely fruitless, after seven months of the valuable time
of ~~Parliament~~ John Harrison, ~~Esquire~~ (his wife, to wit)
~~had been thrown~~
~~away on it. The being thus left where he was applied~~
~~himself without further delay to the necessary steps pre-~~
~~vious to a new trial of the Timekeeper in the terms of the~~
~~original act of Parliament.~~

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fair repute in the higher circles of society, he was rich enough in polite common place & decorous technicals, where such coin tokens circulates for value equivalent, but bankrupt in the more necessary Tokens of common civility towards those in a much inferior station, as happened unfortunately to be the case with the individual he committed / although in subsequent life he was in the commission of the peace, & served the sheriffs office. / — It is curious to compare his character, as given in a letter of Mr. Montagu's, inserted in the Gentleman's Magazine for December 1804, with the awkward set off thus discovered, above fifty years after his death. — Under date, November 19. 1770 the Authoress of the Commentary on Shakespear, writes — "The news-papers will to page 73

Patrick Hunt Macfarlane B. D. & John Harrison — Return home in a merchant ship — Observations given to be computed — Death of the Astronomer Royal — Harmony at the Board — Dr. Maskelyne succeeds him — Candidates memorial — James, Earl of Morton, becomes President of the Royal Society & commissions — Real motives of public men often betrayed by Time —

Chap. 5 [illegible] 2

Preparations for the second voyage to determine the accuracy of the Timekeeper — Rivalry between two eminent opticians with its consequences — Professor Bliss averse to his assistants going the voyage — his private reason for it — Direction of the astronomical observations to be taken — Important addition to the instructions rejected to avoid tautology — The Tartar frigate sets sail — Watch trusted each lead they run — Arrival at Barbadoes — Origin of the [illegible] contestion

The candidate John Harrison now giving all his attention to prepare for the second voyage, delivered a petition to Lord Sandwich, praying his Lordship to summon another board of Longitude, to take into consideration the following propositions, for each of which there were cogent reasons.

First. That sort of observations are really necessary for the trial of the Timekeeper.

Secondly. What number of observations are necessary for such conclusive trial.

Thirdly. That the correctness & propriety of

head of Pet

the instruments intended to be used for making such observations be carefully examined.

To the first was subjoined, as being addressed personally to the Earl "I humbly pray that your "Lordship will please to call for some gentlemen, "besides the Commissioners, who are well versed in "astronomical observations." — This application includes pretty broadly the little reliance he had on the experience of these savans: but he would scarcely have intimated so much, had not his remarks led him to look for the countenance of the noble lord in this suggestion. — The third proposition, which respects the correctness & proficiency of the instruments, being connected with some curious circumstances, illustrative of the interested predilections & undue preferences, which were to be expected when the predominant ruling party could exert an uncontrouled authority, which, on whatever subject, mankind are prone to abuse, calls for some notice.

The first opticians & mathematical instrument makers, James Short F. R. S. & M.r John Bird, were at the profession in that day. The former had the advantage of being more scientific than his competer, & surpassed him

in the accuracy of his work (as will soon appear.) But the latter having been introduced to the University gentlemen, to whom these concerns were exclusively referred, had all the custom of the Board of Longitude, and being frequently called in by these Commissioners, for his opinion on disputed, or doubtful points, between them & the Candidate, his sentiments, as it happened always coincided with those of his patrons. Which however argued his knowledge of the world better than that of the subject matter; for when he was afterwards to repeatedly objections that were taken after the [redacted] first voyage, his opinion being the echo of the notion started by the Professors Bliss & Shepherd, & that having been fully retracted, it followed, either that he did not perfectly understand the use of the equal altitude instrument, though made by himself, or that he did not think it prudent "to call a spade a spade."

The distinction he experienced from them, was observed, after the invention of the Timekeeper, & the consequent disclosure of the invention, he was associated with the revd. Mssrs. Ludlam & Mitchell, gentlemen well versed in mechanics, who were to review it, conjointly with three watchmakers, though he neither commenc

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"inform you of the death of M^r. George Granville. I think he is
"a great loss to the public; & though, in these days of calumny
"& abuse, he was often much calumniated, I believe time will
"vindicate his character as a public man; as a private one
"he was quite unblemished. I regret the loss to myself; I was
"always pleased & informed by his conversation. He had read
"a vast deal, & had an amazing memory. He had been versed in
"business from his youth, so that he had a very rich fund
"of conversation; & he was good-natured & very friendly."

That M^r. Granville was not always calumniated, & that he was complained of with too much reason, the particulars given (without the least intention of publicity) unhappily for his posthumous reputation attest. One instead of vindicating this Statesman, when seen behind the curtain, has in this instance summately exposed him, with all his evasive cunning, & his vast memory

one Description nor the other.

With reference to the above proposition; at this Board (4th August) "William Harrison desired "that the instruments should be examined. The Astronom- "-mer Royal replied, he did not see any occasion for "that now. William Harrison rejoined, he thought "it was much better to examine them before the voyage "than after, as they did before, & it was then agreed "they should be examined." — That is, because the learned Professor was unable to parry so reasonable a proposal. In consequence of which "On the 6th the junior "Harrison got a two feet reflector of Mr. Short, in order "to carry to Greenwich, to compare the others with, that "were there. And as there were three persons nominated by "the Board to attend, who were the rev. Messrs. Bliss, Shep- "herd & Hornsby, he also chose to have the same number, "& desired the favour of Colonel Roy, Dr. Bevis & Mr "Green. — After a pretty long examination, it appeared "very plainly; which was the best.

"On the 9th Colonel Roy & Dr. Bevis sent in the "following certificate to the commissioners.

"We do hereby certify that, conformable to a resolu- "-tion of a Board of Longitude, held on Thursday the 4th "inst. we did at the desire of Mr. William Harrison meet "the said Mr. Harrison at the Royal Observatory at "Greenwich; & did there, in the presence of the reverend "Messieurs Bliss, Shepherd & Hornsby, carefully com- "-pare & examine four several reflecting Telescopes, each,

to the imputation of being either too ignorant of, or too inattentive indifferent to what men of less profound acquisitions, & less agreable in conversation, better know how to appreciate: while his deficient want of urbanity is repulsive to the philanthrophist. This suffering the younger Harrison, whose time was valuable, to pass attendance on him three months (as if to indulge the parade of office) & that about no trifle, but a question which it did not require much reading to know had engaged the attention of every mathematician in Europe, & of all persons in business connected with the sea, cannot be defended in a public man: while, in contradiction to the sentiments of the amiable Lady, who thought him without blemish, his demeanor towards a man well entitled to his consideration, on account of from the magnitude of the concern he was engaged in; was both unfeatured & unfriendly in no ordinary degree.

The portrait by Mr. Montagu, resembling that of Apollo, in the fable of "The Painter who pleased Nobody & every Body" when contrasted compared with the unpleasant awkward features that start off from the paper here, reminded the Author of a person he formerly knew — the correctness of whose deportment among his equals, or his superiors, occasioned his being frequently regarded as a model of politeness by the gentlemen; neither was he deficient in those attentions which commonly bespeak the smiles of the ladies. — Accidental circumstances having made the writer acquainted with a dispute or business between this

as was said, of two feet focal length: three of which were
" brought by M^r. Bird, & the fourth by M^r. Short. That
" upon a comparison of each of M^r. Bird's with M^r. Short's,
" directed to the dial & vane of the Dome of the Royal
" Hospital, M^r. Short's Telescope appeared to us to have
" the advantage of the other three; as representing the
" objects more distinct & luminous, though differently
" so at different times, and, as it were by fits; occasion-
" ed, as we apprehended, by drifts of thin smoke from the
" town of Greenwich, brought by the current of the breeze
" between the Hospital & the Observatory. Upon which, at
" the instance of Gentlemen present, a half sheet of printed
" letter press was fixed to a Tree behind Flamstead Hills, in
" a place free from smoke. We repeated our comparisons
" at this object, & were thereby soon satisfied of the superior-
" -ity of M^r. Short's telescope above the rest; as it represent-
" -ed the paper whiter, & the letters more neatly defined.
" With it we could read with ease any sentence of the smallest
" type, but, with M^r. Bird's only here & there a word."

The remainder of the certificate, not immediately bearing on the question, is referred to the notes. It was signed by Col. William Roy, & D^r. John Bevis. The journal then accounts for the signature of the assistant astronomer M^r. William Green, being wanting — " who agreed that
" it was true in every respect, but was afraid it might
" occasion a difference between him and his Master."

While it may be granted that the commissioners were justified in omitting this certificate on their

75 correct Gentleman & a Wheelwright / an honest man who had saved some property by his industry / he then learned that / fronti nulla fides / appearances are deceitful — that the mechanic had been assailed with coarse language & abusive epithets, backed by a volley of oaths. Nor was this all; for the Daughter of the workman, a decent, & rather handsome young woman, who had nothing to do with the argument, casually coming up, came in for a share of that abuse, & those oaths: which it thus appeared this friendly & good natured soul, when released from constraint, as he thought, found himself at home in indulging.

There being no other instance in the whole series / [redacted] & savours of a

minutes, to avoid prejudicing M.r Bird (though there is good reason to believe they would not have been so severe towards his opponent) it is not clear that they were borne out in epitomising it in this fash-
-ion " A paper signed by Col.o Roy & D.r Bevis, who
" were present with M.r Harrison at the examination
" & comparison of the reflecting telescopes, & equal al-
" -titude instruments, at the Royal Observatory, was
" then read, giving preference to a reflecting telescope
" made by M.r Short, when compared with those
" made by M.r Bird. And D.r Bevis, who was attending
" on behalf of M.r Harrison, being called in, & asked if
" he did not think that the difference of Longitude of be-
" -tween different places could be determined by M.r Bird's
" above mentioned instruments as well as by those made
" by M.r Short. He answered, that he believed <u>they were</u>
" <u>fully sufficient for the purpose</u> "

The words in italics are so inserted on the minutes, which is peculiar to those of this date; and savours of a defiance to the junior Harrison, for having brought M.r Short's instrument, which proved so unaccountably superi-
-or to those of their friend. The argument which might be allowed some weight in the suppression of the certificate, equally applies to an answer extorted from the good nature of D.r Bevis, who could not have replied otherwise without apprehending he might

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[redacted] to have been lucky in escaping the lash of the English Aristophanes, as Foote was sometimes called; she was always on the look out for some egregious affectation, whereby to recruit his finances, & edify John Bull. Had he got hold of the notion that several hands were to be employed at an expence of £40 or £50 per week, without any funds to pay them, he would soon have wrought it into a two-penny farce. — By a common transposition of persons & things, the President of the Royal Society would have been introduced borrowing (suppose) of Mr. Cumine, Lady Pentweasel, Dr. Last, or Major Sturgeon; but like Nicholas Gimcrack, the virtuoso in the Tatler, being more attentive to a horned scarabeus, or the nest of a humming bird, than to the calls for the interest of the money advanced, he is sent, perdue, to a sponging house; from whence he is redeemed by Sir Matthew Mite, or some other Sir such a one, to whom he gives as security a secret [redacted] which no workman in London can find out. — advised, by Silvester Daggerwood & Emanuel Scrutcheon, at more than the whole amount of Peter's pence, before the Reformation!

injure, or make an enemy of M.r Bird. Had he been interrogated in a different form, it need not be doubted he would have preferred the best instruments, like the candidates for, according to the following statement, which may be contrasted with the above.

"At the board of Longitude on the 9.th William "Harrison, who was attending, was called in, & told that "they had received the certificate from Col.l Roy & Dr. "Bevis; & that Messrs.rs Blisse, Shepherd & Hornsby had also "reported, that in their opinion, M.r Short's telescope was "the best, but that they thought the others were sufficiently correct for the purpose. William Harrison "said — "that he thought the most correct instruments "that could be had should be sent on this occasion, "& therefore hoped they would determine to have such."

"To which M.r Blisse made answer, "Sir, these instruments "made by M.r Bird were bespoken by us, & paid for by "the public; therefore we cannot throw away the "publics money, & so they must go."

The learned Professor either forgot, or did not chuse to recollect, this was lamentably begging the question, & did no credit to the logic he had imported from Alma Mater; for it subjected him to be as easily confuted, by the Socratic method, as the Sophist whom that Philosopher held up to the derision of the wranglers & quibblers of Athens. It will be supposed,

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God, they did not show it towards man, on this occasion

our laps

however, that if they had occasion for another telescope, as was the case at the same Board, they would to present appearances, & by way of making the amende honorable to the candidate, to the public, & to Mr. Short, have resorted to the superior workman. But no! These divines were acquainted with their duty to [redacted] & the new instrument was forthwith ordered of their friend, John Bird, without the least regard to the interests of science — for what inducement had an optician to insure all possible accuracy to his work, if, as in this instance, it made no difference to the commissioners of Longitude, who were (mistakenly) looked to as the best judges of merit in that line? And how could we be expected to [redacted] foreigners in those combined productions of art & science, if this shabby treatment was the recompence of those who excelled?

It ought not to be omitted, for it is remarkable enough, that at the preceding Board (4. Aug.) William Harrison being desired to let the Timekeeper to Greenwich, for the Astronomer Royal "to make some observations on its going, previous to its being sent the voyage:" answers, as speaking for his

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although he had killed a

father, that "he does not chuse to part with it, tho'
"he has derived some advantage from it;" & that he
"did not think it a reasonable trial." It appears from
a former passage, referring to what passed at the Board
on August 17th. That he considered the Astronomer Royal
as a very improper person for such examination, "he hav-
"ing professed himself an entire friend to the Longi-
"tude scheme." Being pressed, at this time, to explain why
he did not think it a reasonable trial? He did not
hesitate to answer, "that the affair of the Longitude
"was now become one of parties." adding that "he
"did not know who were engaged in it, or in what
"scheme. Upon which Professor Bliss taking this
to himself, replied "Mr. Harrison seems to hint, as if
"I was engaged in some scheme of Longitude, or am
"partial to such. I solemnly declare, Gentlemen,
"that if I am partial, it is to him."

It is to be regretted that there is no way to vindicate
this person's sincerity, but at the expence of his under-
standing. He seems to have been a weak man, notwith-
standing the distinction of the Profession chair. It
is certain he contradicted himself, & prevaricated so
grossly, as made it was morally impossible the Candidate &

which also gives Furnishes some important information respecting the three machines that preceded the succesful Timekeeper. "Some time

his Son could place any confidence in him.

The narrative continues — "Mr Bliss & Mr
" Hornsby both argued very strongly that the Timekeeper should
" go to Greenwich. To which William replied, "that the Act
" did not require it; therefore they could not insist upon
" it;" & at the same time said; "If they would please to
" call in Capt.n Campbell (who was then at the Admiralty)
" & ask his opinion on this head; that he would agree to
" what he should say." Capt.n Campbell was then introduced
" and being asked, if he thought the previous trial, before
" mentioned necessary, answered "That he did not see any
" objection to such observations; but that if Mr Harrison
" kept the rate of going of the Timekeeper he sailed
" -ed from Portsmouth, & abided thereby, it would be sufficient"

It may often be remarked how busyingly these literati reason, considering their professional habits would have induced a contrary expectation; & this is conspicuous in the next paragraph. [redacted]
" after, William Harrison was asked which of the Time
" -keepers he intended to take to sea on this trial? He an-
" -swered, the small one, commonly called "the watch, as
" that was by far the most perfect. Professor Bliss
" said, that the third, or last machine should also go.
" William Harrison replied, he could not see the least
" reason why it should go, as he would not abide by it;
" knowing that it was not so perfect as the watch: and
" that the large ones had done their duty, by opening a
" principle upon which the small one was made, which

"might not have been found out, could his Father have
"given a small one at first. To this Mr. Blisse made an-
-swer, — Sir, these instruments are all the property, &
if we insist upon it, whichever we please must go. The
junior Harrison replied, — 'If that is the case, you may
send the first, which is by far the most imperfect; but
certainly I am not to abide by such determination.'
Mr. Blisse, Mr. Shepherd & Mr. Horsley continued to insist
upon it, 'That they had a right to send which they
pleased.' And William Harrison rejoined, 'with sub-
-mission to this honourable Board' 'He did not think
'they had any such right, for it was he that was to say
'which instrument would be most proper. They were to
'be judges to what degree of exactness it came. So that
'if he was to take an old shoe, & by their orders, to go
'with it; if at his return it should have been found
'to answer, that certainly would be fulfilling the Act.'
Upon which it was agreed that the watch only should go.

Strange, indeed, that there could be any necess-
-ity for this conclusion. And who would expect to
find learned graduates supporting such a piddle faddle
argument? — We must proceed to relate that, previous
to the Board Lord Sandwich had directed
William Harrison to apply by letter to Mr. John Robison, his
former schoolmate (then in Scotland) to Mr. James Brad-
-ley a nephew of the late Astronomer Royal, & to Mr
William Green, the Assistant at Greenwich Hospital.

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His Lordship now enquiring the result — "It appeared
an answer had not been received from the first, that
the second declined to go the voyage, & the third —
Here William Harrison was interrupted, by the Rev.
Mr. Bliss saying, — My Lord, Mr. Green received a
letter from Mr. Harrison, wherein he makes use of
your Lordship's name, but by what authority I
know not." (Lord Sandwich said, it was by his di-
rection.) On Mr. Green's receiving the letter, he seem
very desirous to go, but on advising with his friends
about it, he declined all thoughts of going; & has
desired me to acquaint your Lordship, that he
does not chuse to go. Professor Hornsby then said, my
Lord, yesterday morning I heard the Assistant
Astronomer tell Mr. Bliss so; & I am therefore sure he
does not chuse to go. William Harrison then
pulled a letter out of his pocket, which he had that
morning got from Mr. Green, & gave it to Lord
Sandwich, who read it. It was to the following purport
— I should be very glad to go the voyage; but my Master
is against it, & will not let me go; therefore, I cannot."
His Lordship then handed the letter to the Astronomer Roy-
al; saying, "it was very odd." and asked him if it
was Mr. Green's handwriting: To which he answered — "it was."
— Lord Sandwich then desired Mr. Harrison to speak to the As-
sistant Astronomer about going. And Professor Shepherd an-

familiar with

acquired by close application

undertook to write to Mr. Nevil Maskelyne [illegible] to know if he would go the voyage."

This is clumsy enough on the part of the learned Doctor; especially as no sensible motive appears for such jealous opposition to his assistant's desire; even at some expense to his own veracity. He had a reason for his conduct, like most other men; and, if an opinion may be formed from the details in which he bears a conspicuous part, the pleasant secret was no other, than that being either conscious of his deficiency, as a practical astronomer, or more addicted to the otium cum dignitate than the transit instrument, he hoped to do credit to his office by the abilities & diligence of Mr. Green.

The conclusion of the above extract may be noticed, as being the origin of Dr. Maskelyne's introduction into public life. It is time however to advert to the scientific occupations at the Board, Aug. 7 G. R. But those who are accustomed to homage academic honours may be startled at finding an Oxford Professor somewhat "shorn of his beams," by being pitted against a London Mechanic, whose knowledge was [illegible] under the paternal roof. — "William Harrison their

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desired to know how many observations of the first satel-
lites of Jupiter would be necessary for ascertaining the
difference of Longitude between Portsmouth & Jamaica?
The Astronomer Royal answered: "Fourteen emersions
& the same number of immersions." William Harrison
replied. "He thought that must be the work of a long
time; for scarcely more than half that number was
ever to be had at any one place in a year." At length
the Board determined there should be as many got as
could be that season, & those should be sufficient.

It should be premised before the next extract
(which is a continuation of the preceding) that one of
the resolutions of the Board on the 4th Aug. last was thus appears
thus "That the observations of equal altitudes be made on
three different Days before Mr. Harrison sails; & that
observations of the same kind be made immediately on
his arrival at Jamaica, on as many Days at least, & soon
if it can be done conveniently."

William Harrison now desired the Board would
please to explain what they meant by equal altitudes
made on three different Days. Professor Bliss answered.
They meant that they should be three succeeding days. And that the
preceding & following limb of the sun should be taken
at each hair in the instrument: & there being three hairs
in it, there would consequently be six observations each
day. — William Harrison informed the Board, that he
looked upon this to be next to an impossibility; as he
could say from experience; having before been kept

as we before said the inventor of the Timekeeper was wont to

five months at Portsmouth by their order, & during that time no such thing could have been done; he therefore hoped they would put it on three different days; & that if they only got one correspondent equal attitude, it should be a sufficient observation for the Day. This was agreed to by the commissioners, they having first called in Capt.n Campbell, to have his opinion, which agreed with that of the junior Harrison.

This appeal to the experience of Capt.n Campbell occurs frequently, & is always unfortunate for the "Professors of abstract sciences" ~~as the Equator of the Tinclinaria~~ calls them ~~in one of his printed Books~~ taking the liberty to observe, that, as such, they were not proper judges of the question before them. This intelligent officer it seems was in waiting by direction of Lord Sandwich, pursuant to the request of the Harrisons, & not less, it may be concluded, at the desire of the Admirals, who were unequal to contending with the palaver of their learned advocates: but they could not have much inducement to send their sons to either of our staple emporiums of science, when they saw that two plain but unaffected men, like the father & son, knew more of the purpose than Masters & Doctors of ~~arts or Divinity or~~ sound by designations. A B C

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at the Board,

seen the walls of a college closet in Transition

Insert at △ with the best intentions,

[redacted] their countenances then; or were they looking at some imaginary object through the window, or for a Saracen's head in the fire (if there was one?)

~~[illegible]~~ — These Play officers, & the other Gentlemen who took their seats too for ma~~n~~ ~~(for in [illegible] they never interfered)~~ must have been amused with seeing the Collegians foiled at their own weapons, by an antagonist who never had ~~[illegible] as examiner by "three jolly sons of Bet"~~ (~~and by Dr Knox's strictures~~) & sometimes their fun would be improved by the marvellous ignorance these men of letters betrayed in common things connected with the sea. — ~~For example~~

Thus the article in continuation informs us, That —

" Messrs. Shepherd & Morpeth then desired that M. Harrison
" should take his departure from Greenwich, & not from
" Portsmouth. William Harrison answered, he had no ob
" -jection to this; if they would please to allow for the
" length of time in going round, for that it was sometimes
" longer than a voyage to the West Indies; adding, that
" ships always took their departure from the last
" land they saw, which never could be Greenwich.
" — At length the Board determined that the depar
" -ture should be from Portsmouth.

Good, indeed! did the naval Gentlemen smile when it appeared that these ~~[illegible]~~ Lucasian, Sawilian, Lowndean & Plumian Professors Lecturers colleagues, whom the Legislature had deputed to determine a most important question in navigation, did not know what almost any Sea boy could have told

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[redacted] for the expences consequent of

Note at O £15 a day is the expression used; but as this, if taken literally, would be quite incredible, the Author conceives it should be understood in the sense he has adopted.

revolting the

prevention of

them:— and (to ~~need~~ improve the joke, they were allowed £15 [illegible] their services each board of Longitude they attended.)

It would have been well if their [illegible] assistance had been otherwise of as neutral & inoffensive a description as this example, but the radical evil of the mechanicism ~~s~~ having no representative to attend especially to their interests, as opposed to those of the astronomers, is glaringly conspicuous in what next follows, which may not a little surprise the learned Secretary of the Admiralty; who having no suspicion of the existence of such marvellous incongruities, because they do not appear on the minutes of the Board, paid no attention to the ~~insertion~~ ~~incurrence of~~ them, in his consolidating bill; & were it not that this rivalry, from a concurrence of favourable causes, is become in a great measure obsolete, as regards the injurious consequences to be sick here; & that our Universities, had they been called on (which for reasons of expediency was set aside) would have contributed a better informed, & more liberal set, to the new Commission of Longitude, than their delegates in the last century (allowing every rule to have its exceptions) the

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same circumstances might arise, though it would be unjust to suppose in so extravagant a degree as ~~this Professor Blisse~~ exhibits.— "William Harrison having found that the rev. Mr. Blisse had proposed the trial should not be to Jamaica, but to some other island, desired, if the Board pleased, it might be to Antigua. To which Mr. Blisse made answer:— "No Sir, the "longitude of Antigua is also known."— By this, the younger Harrison found that he was not to go to Jamaica because the longitude was known: & therefore said to the Astronomer Royal — "Pray how long has the Longitude of Jamaica been known"? To which the Professor answered, "a long time." William Harrison then said." My fate is very hard, that I must not go to a place because you say the Longitude of it is known, whereas a little ~~while~~ time ago you could not give me the reward, by reason, as you said, the longitude of that Island was not known."— It was at length agreed that he should go to Barbadoes.'

It would be doing injustice to the other Gentlemen, to suppose they could, ~~openly~~ sanction an explanation bordering on lunacy; for it ~~seemed~~ implied that they were determined to find some pretext, right, or wrong, to prevent the mechanics from carrying off honours & emoluments due to men of science.— It might have been expected this strange effrontery, in their interlocutor, would have called for an immediate check from Mess.rs Shepherd and

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Normsby; as in defiance of its being suffered to pass un-
-contradicted, all present, but more particularly the
rev.d Gentlemen, were implicated in his conduct. How-
-ever, instead of interposing, it seems to have sufficed to
them, that it would not appear on the minutes; but
they were mistaken, if from that omission, they surmised
it would not eventually be given to the world. — If fre-
-quently happens indeed, that passages in the Dialogues
preserved in this curious journal, are of far more interest
by the light they throw on the proceedings of the par-
-ties concerned, than whole reams of official paper would
be: in which, unless by some oversight, nothing appears
but what it may be suitable the public should
know. In no instance is an omission more important
than in what followed when "The Commissioners at
"length ordered the Instructions which William Har-
"-rison was to have to be read to him; which was ac-
"-cordingly done, & he was asked if he agreed to them?
"To which he answered, he did; & requested to know
"if they were full & satisfactory to the Board. Lord
"Sandwich replied, that they were. The younger Harrison
"then desired that something to the following import might
"be inserted at the end of them: viz. "These Instructions
"being fulfilled, We, the Commissioners here present, do
"agree, that M.r John Harrison shall be entitled to such

"reward as the 12th. of Queen Anne directs." On this Lord Sandwich said, that there was no occasion for such words, as it would be tautology; for their giving him those Instructions implied the very same thing.

It is manifest that to have hesitated after the suggestion, [redacted] how it would be mere tautology — would have been doubting the honour of a first Lord of the Admiralty, a peer of the realm, &, to say all, a Knight of the Garter; who, in this manner, pledged himself & his colleagues to the payment of the reward forthwith, those instructions being fulfilled, as ~~duly as~~ irrevocably as if curses had been imprecated on all nonconformists thereto, with the formula from the Holy Father "by bell, book & candle."

Our Candidate's reasons for the above step are easily anticipated; he had offered (in October 1761) to be equally responsible for the Trial of the Timekeeper in the homeward voyage, as in the outward run — also to repeat that test, &, again (February 26th. 1763) to concur in substituting some mode of ascertaining the ~~correct~~ ~~ness~~ accuracy of the Watch more satisfactory than that prescribed by the 12th. of Queen Anne; though he thereby increased the chances against him, on account of the hazards of the sea, &c. But when this liberal

88 continued

-ty, contravening immemorial prescription, were unjust
enough

much abridged

spirit / not usually looked for expected from conceded to a person in his walk of life / was met by the selfish avowal of D. Bradley, & the blundering acknowledgment of his supporter, to the same effect; & more particularly when that party had the meanness to debar him from all knowledge of the grounds for their refusal of the reward, it can occasion no surprise, if he was sufficiently cured of the romantic, & taught to confine himself more to the letter of the business before him. Hence, the first voyage having been rendered nearly fruitless, nobody knew how, except the Asst, he thus made an effort, with commendable prudence, to prevent the recurrence of so severe a disappointment: & had this provisional security been recorded on the minutes, which, though W Alison Harrison attempted to procure the insertion of it, he could not effect, the future manoeuvres of the mathematical junta might have been in . The instructions in addition concluded with — We heartily wish you success in this undertaking, & are, Sir &c." The security of which there was no occasion to doubt, as respected the naval Governor & their President; but as the rev. Nathaniel Wispe

Addenda & Notes

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sh his laurels cropt;" or he perfectly subdued & mounted
ht to the virtuous part he acted. — The Dean,
a feeling heart, would have embraced him, with
his eye: and had

from page 51

Porto Santo

Addenda to Notes

from Page 31 c interpolate at △ His name appears con-joined with those of D.r Halley, D.r Smith, D.r Bradley, & M.r John Machin who, in 1735, first recommended the candidate to the Commissioners of Longitude by an opin-ion of his merit calculated to insure the notice of the Board; again, he is recognized among the twelve Gentlemen Fellows of the Royal Society, including their President, M.r afterward Sir Martin Folkes, who, in 1746 expressed under their signatures the most decided sentiments in favour of our Mechanician, and — be it observed, that at the intermediate Board, January 16.th 1741 George Graham is found informing the Commissioners —

for 321 interp.r at □ Swift, who indulged the max-hater in the Verses on his own Death, has among concurrent equivalent sentiments

> If it a battle you should find
> One, whom you love of all mankind,
> Had some heroic action done,
> A champion kill'd, or trophy won,
> Rather than be so overtopt,
> Would you not wish his laurels cropt?

— Graham could not love John Harrison most of all mankind — whom he had never seen, before he introduced himself, as described, yett he did not wish his laurels cropt; or he perfectly subdued & mounted each wayward thought to the virtuous part he acted — The Dear, who had in reality a feeling heart, would have embraced him, with the tear glistening in his eye; and had

her. This blunder it appeared was entirely owing to the Beaver being deceived in her reckoning, as the Deptford's crew had been before. Her Officers [redacted] made the ship out considerably to the eastward of [redacted], while they were in reality somewhat to the west. Under this delusion they steered westward till — finding their mistake, they turned back again; losing a fortnight by an error (then) so common, that there were several vessels in the fleet, expected Traders to Jamaica, which from this imaginary casting, although desiring to touch at Madeira, had never seen the Island.

In the run from Madeira to Jamaica the Timekeeper again corrected the errors of the log, which were much greater than in the voyage from Portsmouth, the Master of the Deptford being three degrees short of the true Longitude: & the reckonings of several ships in the convoy varied five degrees. But they made the island of Desirade, & all the other Islands, till they arrived at Jamaica, exactly as foretold by the Watch: — which proved the objection subsequently urged by the learned Professor Commissioners, that probably [redacted] it did not [redacted] such equal time during the voyage was [redacted] futile & unreasonable

According to the Journal, the Deptford anchored in Port Royal harbour on January 19th 1762. We omit to 4-4